

Physics Department's Second-Stage Writing Requirement
Spring 2018

The Physics Department's portion of the College Writing Requirement¹ can be satisfied with a passing evaluation of a student portfolio. The portfolio will consist of three items: two laboratory reports from *Modern Physics* (Physics 240) and/or *Advanced Laboratory* (Physics 315/316), and one research report from *Senior Physics Seminar* (Physics 490/491). Students are encouraged to revise these reports before submitting the portfolio. Typical formats for the required writings will be presented in the related courses. The writing is expected to be clear, precise, and intelligible to someone who has completed the Physics Foundation. Proper spelling, grammar, and organization are essential. The portfolio will be evaluated on a pass/fail basis by a departmental committee.

A student may submit a portfolio only once. The portfolio is normally submitted at the end of the semester when the student completes the first semester of 490/491. The final deadline for submission of a passing portfolio is the last day of classes in a student's penultimate semester. Failing students or those that do not wish to submit a portfolio can also satisfy the Second-Stage Writing Requirement by taking a WRD 201 course that has been approved by the Physics Department Chair in consultation with the WRD Chair. A grade of C or better will satisfy the Physics Department's portion of the College Writing Requirement.

¹From the Occidental College Catalog: "*Proficiency in writing is a requirement for graduation.* Students meet this requirement in two stages, the first of which is passing the Writing Proficiency evaluation in the first-year Cultural Studies Seminar. Completion of the Cultural Studies courses does not by itself satisfy the writing requirement. An additional measure of writing proficiency is required; most recently this measure has been participation in a shared intellectual experience with required reading. Frosh are expected to pass the writing exercise that culminates the experience. Those who do not pass the Cultural Studies Writing evaluations will be asked to pass with a C or better a course in the Department of Writing & Rhetoric (201) or another writing course designated by the Director of Writing Programs in conjunction with the Director of the Core Program. The second stage of the requirement will be met in the student's major department. Each department at the college has specified its own writing requirement in the major."